

Shooting perfect rooftop photos this quarantine

SADMAN SAKIB PANTHO

If you are an avid outdoor photographer or just someone who dabbles in it, this quarantine must be making it really difficult for you to indulge in your interests. But when you have a rooftop to go to, do you even need to go outside?



RAIN AND WATERDROPS

The frequent rainfalls make this the perfect weather to take photos in the rain and afterwards. You can take a person to the roof to act as the subject. If you have a DSLR or mirrorless camera, be sure to use a waterproof case or prepare a makeshift raincoat for it. The starting point of the shutter speed should be 1/250 and never go at or below 1/125. Use a higher ISO value, preferably 1600, to cope with low light in cloudy weather. This will also help you maintain a faster shutter speed

to catch the raindrops. Start with an f8 aperture. Try to keep any light source behind your subject at night or use manual flash. For capturing water dripping from a place after the rain, you should use an ISO of 100-200, exposure time of .05 seconds and f/14 aperture. If you take photos on your smartphone, a macro lens will be really helpful to capture reflections in water droplets or water dripping from a leaf. Photos of someone with an umbrella or jumping onto a puddle can come out amazing on phones.

LIGHTNING

It's the perfect time to capture lightning in your photos courtesy of the *Kalbaishakhi* storms. The best time to shoot is at night. For a DSLR, put your camera into Bulb mode. Use an ISO of 100-200 and start with an f/5.6 aperture. As there are fewer chances of overexposure, you can let the shutter remain open for 30 to 120 seconds. If you use a smartphone, use one with manual settings. Use an ISO of 200 and be sure to not use a flash. Use a shutter speed of 8 seconds and be sure to keep the phone steady. You can use a shorter shutter speed if the photos come out too bright. Adjust the white balance to 4100K and the manual focus to just below infinity. A timer will help you to avoid motion blur.



BIRDS

Birds are back in the city. While taking stills, focus on the birds' eyes. For a DSLR, f2.8 or f4 apertures should be perfect. Choose a faster shutter speed and complementary ISO for sharp photos. For action shots, continuous focus mode should be used, with a shutter speed of 1/1000. If you are using a smartphone, try not to zoom in. Feeding birds is the best way to make them come closer to you. Use the grid feature in the camera app and divide a shot into thirds both vertically and horizontally. Then place the subject either where these lines intersect or within one of the "thirds". This creates photos that are well-focused and not empty.





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